and

Claims 1-31 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following inventions are present in the claims:

Group I, Claims 1-14, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 348, subclass 340;

Group II, Claims 15-27, drawn to apparatus, classified in class 438, subclass 107;

Group III, Claim 28, drawn to a method, classified in class 438, subclass 107; Group IV, Claim 29, drawn to a method, classified in class 600, subclass 109; Group V, Claim 30, drawn to apparatus, classified in class 600, subclass 130;

Group VI, Claim 31, drawn to a method, classified in class 348, subclass 68.

It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed as Groups I, II, III, IV, V and VI are distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, Claims 1-14. However, Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Spinelli

Registration No.: 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser, P.C. 400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300 Garden City, New York 11530 (516) 742-4343 TS:cm